

The Philippines schools project



Making progress, moving forward.

Thanks to all our friends who worked so hard during the year to raise finances and donate gifts, we had a bumper parcel tally of 17 this year. To be honest, I think we overstepped the mark and packing them all was quite a strain for Jo, particularly as she had injured her shoulder. I think we have to perhaps be more selective about what we send out in the future. The building plans went well and we have been able to put in place more projects to be completed during 2010. We have also had such a success with the computers in the last couple of years that we have outgrown the computer room, only completed in 2007!

A late change of last year's plans proved fortunate in preventing the school from being damaged in the recent floods, which engulfed large parts of the province.



The parcels have arrived in our kitchen in Botao, Philippines



A familiar process now as we start to unpack the seventeen parcels



Piles of donated clothes, which have protected the computers on their journey



Monitors, computers, keyboards and printers all unpacked and ready for testing and delivery

Jo and her sister sort the clothes before distribution



The books are sorted into relevency for High school / elementary school



We bought 25 new chairs for the elementary school, later we bought a similar amount for the High school



And then, we loaded the books and other school supplies, along with the chairs, onto a kaliglig, a sort of tractor.



With the kaliglig loaded

and lots of willing helpers

we headed along the road toward the school



and swept majestically through the gates!

We had planned to refurbish the elementary canteen. When the Mayor offered to do this, we re-allocated our funds



We put security bars and gates on one of the new classrooms

and rebuilt a wall. This proved to be very beneficial when the local area flooded and the wall held the water back, saving the school from damage



We put the rest of the funds towards building a new classroom





The sign painted on the side of the new classroom. The spelling may be tagalog, the message is universal

When we arrived this year, we started off by finishing the wall.



We built some book cases and installed the books from the parcels

The computers are loaded into the kaliglig



In 2007, we put our first 4 computers into the newly-finished computer room. Even allowing for failures, this year's shipment bought the number up to 24, and this filled the room.

installation begins



So the decision was taken to move them into a larger room, the "library", also built in 2007. This meant we had to build all the security measures into the new room, plus move the aircon, install fans and electrical points. We've now got enough room for further expansion, too!

24 computers ready to go!



The teachers seem happy!



This, of course, left the "old" computer room spare. It was decided to partly demolish and extend it, to make two new classrooms



steelwork in place



foundations dug



coming along nicely



We supplied glasses, bowls and cutlery for the youngsters to use, and made benches to accompany the tables we built last year



We gave the day care centre a lick of paint and bought them some new toys, crayons and colouring books





The sign says it all!
Here are some of the
children making our
guests very welcome.

Our guests are some of the many that have helped with the
project and came to see it first-hand



Donating Money to the
PTA, for the Scholarship
scheme



In deep
conversation
with the Mayor!

The High School
Principal was
overjoyed to have
a computer in
her office

We went to a civic
launch, where we had
the opportunity to
make a presentation
to the mayor to cover
the building works we
had initiated



The scholarship scheme

Before we left in March 2009, we deposited a sum of money to help scholars with their school fees.

Below is a list of the forty recipients (the top ten of each of the four school years), for the year 2009 - 2010.



Department of Education
BOTAO NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

Sta. Barbara
Friends of the School Scholars
School Year 2009 - 2010



Names of students:

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Rhona Caoile | 21. Ma Ellaine W Fernandez |
| 2. Fatima Osilla | 22. Rossana Mary D Cruz |
| 3. Laurine Forteza | 23. Rose Biane C Bautista |
| 4. Jomari Macalanda | 24. Mary Rose E Dela Cruz |
| 5. Marisol Patungan | 25. Jasmine S Parayno |
| 6. Johnysa Bruan | 26. Marigold I Bautista |
| 7. Rizza Macalanda | 27. Norbert G Rosario |
| 8. Cherry Lou Buhayang | 28. Sherwin C Soriano |
| 9. Jestoni Padilla | 29. Jeanny D Dominguez |
| 10. Arcel Pascua | 30. Baby Laika B Pidlaoan |
| 11. Bazil Ordonio | 31. Ruffa D Palaganas |
| 12. Jomer Cabusas | 32. Charlene C Buhayang |
| 13. Sheryl Pascual | 33. Michael John Bruan |
| 14. Rolando Palaganas | 34. Jocelyn V Rosario |
| 15. Michelle Pascual | 35. Reizl R Macalanda |
| 16. Ritchel Pascua | 36. Jeric Cabusas |
| 17. Hanoop Ordonio | 37. Mary Rose Garcia |
| 18. Edmarie Tarlit | 38. Honeylyn Parayno |
| 19. Jomar Camacho | 39. Khlariscelle Joy C Valdez |
| 20. Justine De Vera | 40. Mary Joe Aranda |

Congratulations to all of the named here! We think this a great incentive for the students, so we are repeating this idea and have left a sum of money for the continuation of the project. We hope the publication of this list will become a regular feature of the yearly newsletter



As always, Jo and I can only say "Thanks very much" for all the help and support we get from so many people over the year. Without you all, none of this would be possible. Jo and me, and the children of Botao, are so lucky to have you all.